institutions, registered charitable hospitals, public libraries, public funded research and development establishments, etc., two years after their use by the said units has been permitted vide Ministry of Finance Notification No. 47/98-Customs dated 16.7.98.

26. The second-hand computers and computer peripherals donated by an outside donor to Government schools have been exempted from customs duties, vide Ministry of Finance Notification No. 18/99-Cus. dated 11.2.99.

27. Income by way of dividends or long-term capital gains of a Venture Capital Fund or Venture Capital company from investment made by way of equity shares in a Venture Capital Undertaking, which has been expended to include the Software and IT sectors, will henceforth not be included in computing the total income.

28. Under the Employee Stock Option Scheme, income tax payable on income from GDRs purchased in foreign currency by a resident employee of IT software and service companies, shall be at a concessional rate of 10%.

29. the expenditure incurred to make the existing computer systems Y2K compliant shall be treated as revenue expenditure and hence will be eligible for deduction in computing the income of the business.

30. To induce more investment for R&D activities, a weighted deduction of 125% on the sums paid to any university, college or an institution or a Scientific research association for the purposes of scientific, social or statistical research has been provided.

National Task Force on Information Technology and Software Development

1589. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have appointed a National Task Force on Information Technology and Software Development

(b) if so, whether the task force has submitted its recommendations, if so the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken on the recommendations of the Task Force and the progress made so far?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Task Force in its first Report has made 108 recommendations aiming to accomplish (i) Infrastructure Drive (ii) Target of IT Exports of US $ 50 billion and (iii) IT for all by 2008.

The recommendations of the second report mainly relate to Soft-Bonded IT Unit, Fiscal and Financial Policies, Procedural Simplification, Export, Investment and RBI related issues, Banking issues, Company Law issues, Labour Law, Information Technology Units in DTA, Information Technology and Product Design and Development.

The third report has made recommendations on strategic policies for the IT industry, IT Research, Design and Development, IT Human Resource Development, Citizen-IT Interface, Content Creation and Content Industry, Micro Electronics, Mission mode creation of Fibre-optic infrastructure, Financing the IT sector and organizational structure.

(c) The Government of India has accepted the recommendations made by the Task Force in first report and many of the recommendations have already been implemented by respective Ministeries.

Total Export From Electronic and Computer Software

1590. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total export from the electronics and computer software sector;

(b) what has been the total export revenue from these sectors; and

(c) whether Govt. envisage to make the country a super power in the field of software?